



Newsletter Issue #2

June 2025

McCarthy Road Draft PEL Study Report is Available for Review and Comment

The Federal Highway Administration—Western Federal Lands (WFL) Highway Division, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and National Park Service (NPS), have prepared a Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study for the McCarthy Road. This study provided an opportunity to evaluate transportation-related needs and opportunities along the road, identify and evaluate potential improvements, and recommend 20 road corridor improvements for future implementation. The study was developed in coordination with regional stakeholders, agencies and the public.

Why conduct a PEL study?

Over the years, local residents and visitors to the road corridor and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve (Park) have provided feedback to DOT&PF and NPS that emphasize the need to evaluate the reliability of access and public safety along the road.

The NPS and DOT&PF joined together to obtain funding through WFL's Federal Lands Access Program to prepare this study.

PEL studies provide a flexible framework that encourages decision-makers to incorporate environmental considerations, community, and economic goals early in the transportation planning process. PELs are intended to better link the planning and environmental review phases; therefore, products and decisions made during this PEL study may be incorporated by reference during a future environmental review process.

Help prioritize the recommended solutions

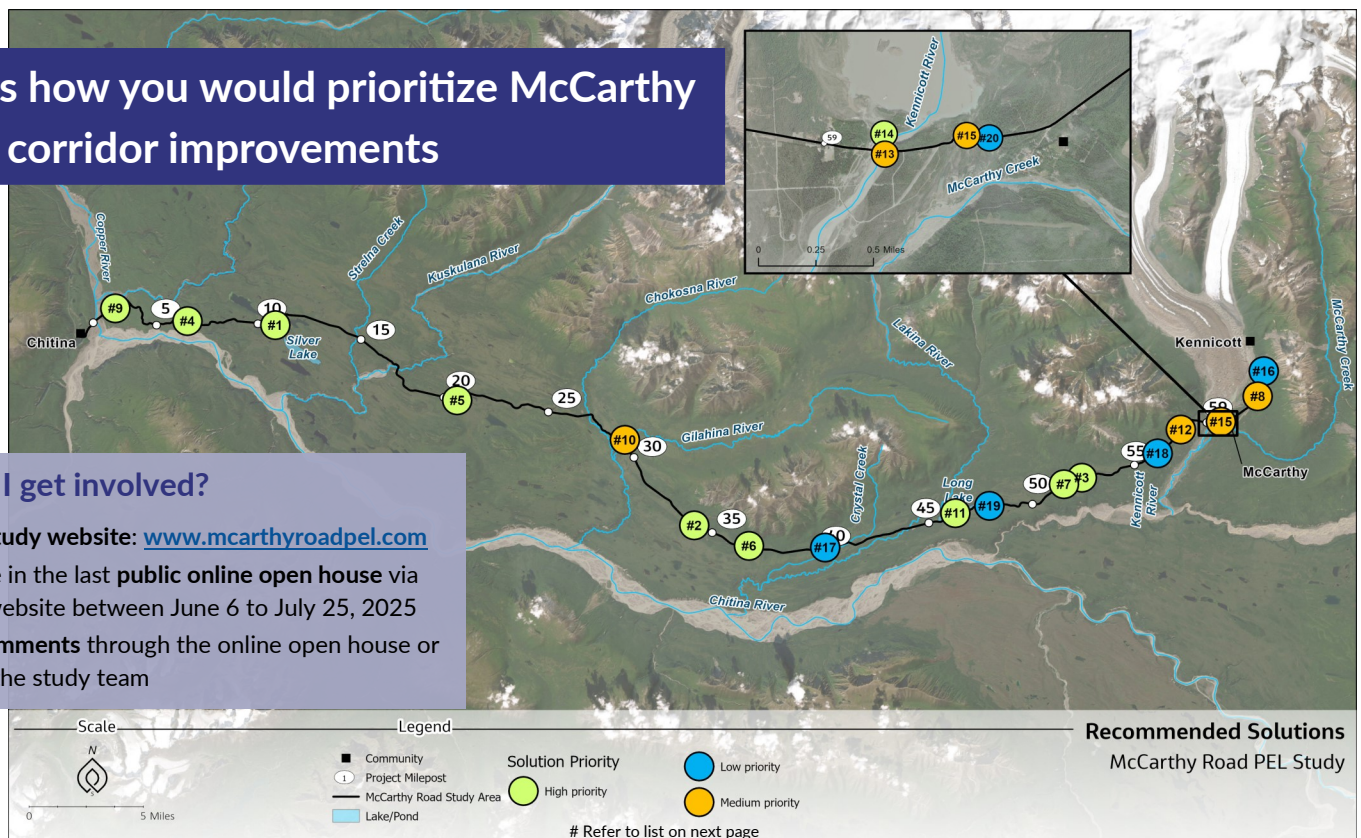
We are in the last phase of the PEL process: evaluating and prioritizing recommended solutions. None of these improvements have funding. The PEL study is intended to help future project sponsors identify funding sources and provide a jump start into the design and environmental review phases.

The team wants to hear from you. Your input is important!

Tell us how you would prioritize McCarthy Road corridor improvements

How can I get involved?

- * Visit the study website: www.mccarthyroadpel.com
- * Participate in the last public online open house via the study website between June 6 to July 25, 2025
- * Submit comments through the online open house or directly to the study team



McCarthy Road Recommended Solutions

Generally listed in order by project type and milepost (MP) from west to east

	Priority ^a	Timeline ^b	Estimated Costs (\$ mil)
1 MP 0 to 21 Drainage Improvements	High	Short-term	\$7.0
2 MP 21 to 43 Drainage Improvements	High	Short-term	\$6.6
3 MP 43 to 63 Drainage Improvements	High	Short-term	\$8.6
4 MP 0 to 15 Rehabilitation (<i>Chitina rock cut to Strelna Creek</i>)	High	Medium-term	\$16.1
5 MP 15 to 27 Rehabilitation (<i>Strelna Creek to Chokosna River</i>)	High	Medium-term	\$17.0
6 MP 27 to 44 Rehabilitation (<i>Chokosna River to Lakina River</i>)	High	Medium-term	\$24.0
7 MP 44 to 59 Rehabilitation (<i>Lakina River to Kennicott River</i>)	High	Medium-term	\$25.9
8 MP 59 to 63 Rehabilitation (<i>from Kennicott River to Kennicott Subdivision</i>)	Medium	Medium-term	\$8.9
9 MP 1.5 to 3 Reconstruction (<i>reroute near Kotsina Bluffs</i>)	High	Long-term	\$72.1
10 MP 29 Gilahina River Bridge Replacement	Medium	Short-term	\$6.4
11 MP 44 to 48.5 Reconstruction (<i>existing alignment improvements near Long Lake</i>)	High	Medium-term	\$14.9
12 MP 58 Reconstruction (<i>existing alignment improvements</i>)	Medium	Medium-term	\$5.0
13 Kennicott River Footbridge Rehabilitation	Medium	Medium-term	\$2.0
14 Kennicott River Erosion Control (MP 59.3)	High	Short-term	\$11.5
15 MP 59.5 to 59.7 Reconstruction (<i>existing alignment improvements near the swimming hole</i>)	Medium	Medium-term	\$1.9
16 Pullouts between McCarthy and Kennicott	Low	Long-term	\$1.2
17 MP 40.2 Ruth Creek Culvert Replacement	Low	Medium-term	\$2.3
18 MP 56.1 Swift Creek Culvert Replacement	Low	Medium-term	\$3.0
19 MP 47.9 Long Lake Creek/Tributary Culvert Replacement	Low	Medium-term	\$3.5
20 MP 59.8 Clear Creek Culvert Replacement	Low	Medium-term	\$2.5

^a Project Priority: Low, Medium or High

^b Project timeline is when funding would be needed to start the project in the preconstruction phase. Timeline represents within the next 5 years (short-term), between 5 and 10 years (medium-term), or beyond 10 years (long-term).

McCarthy Road



Access the draft PEL Study Report from the study website and online open house

The draft PEL Study Report identifies 20 recommended solutions for future implementation. These aim to improve road corridor safety and maintain reliable access and reflect earlier input from the public and stakeholders.

Recommended solutions fall into two project types.

Corridor-wide projects:

- Drainage improvements
- Road rehabilitation

Specific location projects:

- Road reconstruction
- Culvert improvements with localized road improvement (*similar to the recent Crystal Creek culvert project near mile 41*)
- Bridge improvements (at Gilahina River and Kennicott River footbridge)
- Erosion control at Kennicott River
- Pullouts along the narrow road section between McCarthy and Kennicott Subdivision



Visit the Online Open House
June 6 – July 25, 2025
www.McCarthyRoadPEL.com
Submit your comments through the
website or contact us directly!

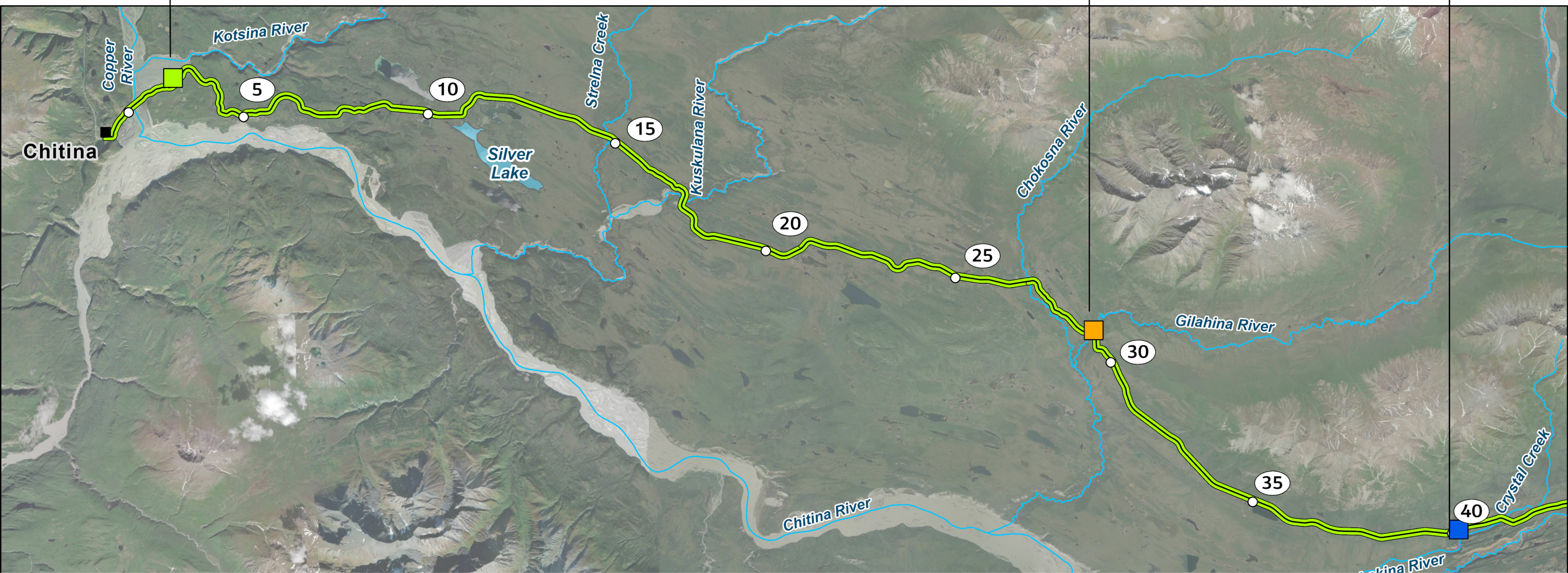
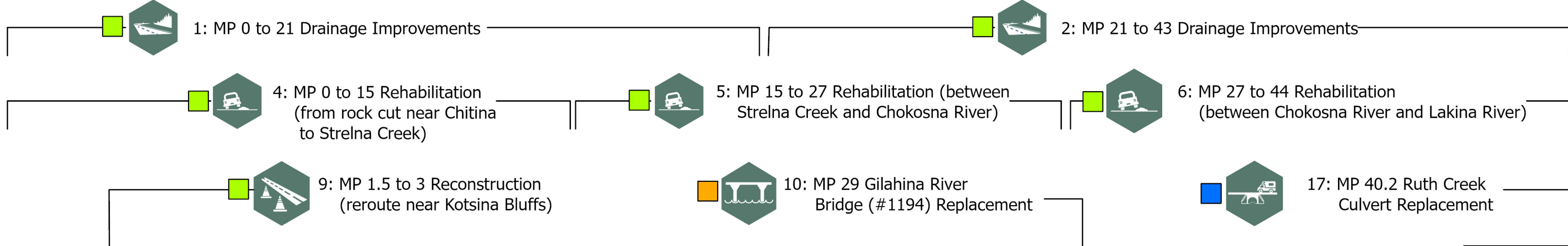
SAVE the DATE!

This PEL study is in partnership with Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities and National Park Service.

Federal Highway Administration -
Western Federal Lands (WFL)
Highway Division
Seth English-Young, Planning Team Lead
610 East Fifth Street
Vancouver, WA 98661
360-619-7803
Seth.English-Young@dot.gov



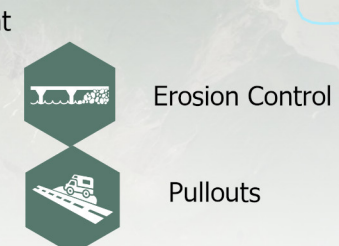
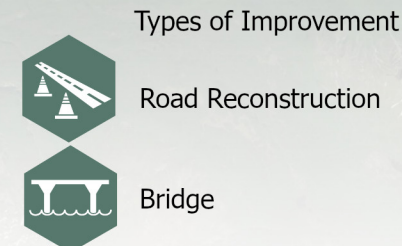
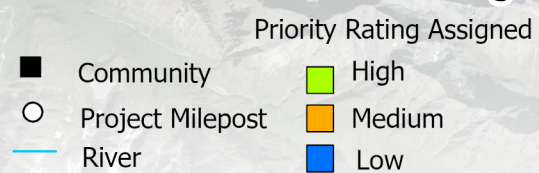
Prst STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit 845
Anchorage, AK



Scale



Legend



Recommended Solutions

McCarthy Road PEL Study

